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# AMONG US

Newsletter of the Committee on International Relations

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

**NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES**
**1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.**

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EXPLANATION - - -

For nearly two years the NEA Committee on International Relations, in cooperation with the NEA Research Division, has issued this newsletter. Circulation has been chiefly among the members of local, state, and national teachers committees on international affairs.

Buring the school year 1941-42 AMONG US will be distributed free to city and county school systems, state departments of education, public and educational libraries, and officers of state and national education associations. A limited supply will be available for mailing as single copies to other persons with a special interest in cultural relations with Latin America.

The purpose of AMONG US continues to be that of helping teachers and students to-keep pace with Pan American educational events and to find information and instructional aids in Latin American studies.

It is suggested that all who receive this newsletter make their copies available to classroom teachers and principals in elementary and secondary schools. Materials appearing in AMONG US may be reproduced in professional journals without further permission provided the usual credit line is given.

## SCHOOL OF THE AIR OF THE AMERICAS

The schedule of programs has been announced for the 1941-42 season of the School of the Air of the Americas (Radio Escuela de las Americas), designed to help the children of the Americas to better understand one another. The School draws on material recommended by educational committees in the United States, Canada, and Latin America. This fall for the first time some of the programs will be broadcast directly to Latin America as well as to the United States and Canada.

Beginning Monday, October 6, the following programs will be heard weekly, Monday thru Friday, during the school year: Mondays, *Americans at Work;* Tuesdays, *Music of the Americas;* Wednesdays, *New Horizons;* Thursdays, *Tales from Far and Near;* Fridays, *This Living World.*

The *Teacher's Manual,* a classroom guide, has been ready for distribution since July 1, free of charge, to librarians, school superintendents, principals, teachers, and others in advisory positions. Superintendents and principals may obtain the manuals in quantity. Application for these manuals should be made to the educational director of the nearest CBS station, or to Department of Education, CBS, 485 Madison Avenue, New York City. The manual has been planned to assist teachers in correlating these radio programs with classroom work. Contained therein are a complete listing of the broadcasts, a description of each program, suggested student activities, and bibliographies.

(Continued from page 1)

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Luis Sanchez Ponton, Minister of Education of Mexico, the School of the Air of the Americas held a conference in Mexico City on August 14, 15, and 16 upon the invitation of the Mexican Government. The purpose of the conference was to arrange for Mexican assistance in the extension of the programs of the School of the Air to all nations of the western hemisphere. This was the First Latin American Conference of the School of the Air, and included addresses by leading officials of Mexico as well as demonstrations of broadcasting and classroom use of School of the Air programs.

The first Canadian demonstration of the School of the Air was held in Toronto last May when nearly 600 teachers and educational leaders assembled with Sterling Fisher, CBS director of education. Canadians are eager to play an active part in the School both by extending the use of broadcasts in Canadian schools and in making a Canadian contribution to the programs themselves.

## A CALL TO ACTION

Educators over all the United States have been urged to devote more attention to Latin American studies during the coming academic year. The National Education Association thru its executive secretary, Willard E. Givens, has addressed communications to all state teachers associations suggesting emphasis on Pan American subjects in their convention program for the new school year. The Education Committee of the Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs has cooperated with the United States Commissioner of Education in an appeal to all state departments of education, all superintendents of schools in districts of 10,000 or more population, and all directors of summer schools. It has been urged (a) that budgetary provisions be made during the coming school year for inclusion in curriculums of subjects dealing with the other American republics; (b) that teachers be assigned as early as possible to specific courses in these subjects; and (c) that curriculum committees be established to evolve details of teaching programs.

One of the difficulties in such an effort has been that schools and study groups have found their enthusiasm blocked by a lack of accurate study materials and teaching aids. It is the responsibility of those who urge increased study to supply classroom materials and information concerning sources of help in the preparation of the study program. This year the sources are more numerous and more productive than last. AMONG US takes as one of its objectives guidance to these services and materials.

The activities of THREE agencies of the federal government are of special interest to educators at this time: (1) Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs; (2) United States Office of Education; and (3) Division of Cultural Relations (Department of State).

Teachers and study group leaders who are as yet unfamiliar with the teaching aids being made avaliable thru the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs will be happy to learn that they can get lists of books, bibliographies, pamphlets, motion pictures, and radio programs free upon request from that office.

The Coordinator's Office is now offering to any one interested a mimeographed bulletin entitled *Suggestions for Action by Civic Associations Interested in Inter-American Cooperation.* Three programs are outlined somewhat in detail: (1) Community Action; (2) A Study of Commercial Products of the Other American Republics; and (3) A Study of the History and Civilization of the Other American Republics. Accompanying the last section is a reading list which would provide an adequate background of information on the several study topics suggested under "History and Civilization."

Among the specific services and materials which can be obtained for use in civic programs from the Office of the Coordinator are:

> Advice and information about methods for the organization of a permanent community council or clearing-house on Pan American cooperation.
>
> Suggestions for appropriate subdivisions of the study of the history and civilizations of the Americas, with references and supplementary materials such as music, films, dramatic scripts for radio and amateur theatrical production.

Distributed by the United States Office of Education are 250 traveling exhibits of aids in the teaching of Central and South American subjects, including books, magazines, motion pictures, pamphlets, and radio programs. These afford teachers in all parts of the nation samples of the material now available.

The program of the Division of Cultural Relations has been centered on three principal objectives: the administration of travel grants; the carrying out of the provisions of the Buenos Aires Convention for the Promotion of Inter-American Cultural Relations; and the organization of a system of interchange of educational motion pictures.

The address of the Coordinator's Office is Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Department of Commerce Building, Washington, D. C. For United States Office of Education materials address the United States Office of Education, Federal Security Agency, Department of the Interior Building, Washington, D. C. Address the Division of Cultural Relations at the State Department, Washington, D. C.

## A BETTER PERSPECTIVE

More and more students are coming from Latin American countries to study in the colleges and universities of the United States. This is the revelation of a set of statistics compiled by the Department of State showing the number of students from other American republics enrolled in schools of the United States from 1923 to 1941. Altho the number is exceedingly small in proportion to the need, the total enrolment of students from the other Americas exceeded in 1940-41 the total of all previous years.

The Republic of Mexico sent the most students in the year 1940-41, the number being 257. From the Antilles as a whole came 341; from Central America, 279; and from South America, 544. The grand total of Latin American students here during the last school year was 1421.

Adding to the picture of this exchange is the report that approximately 400 students sailed from the United States in June and early July for summer courses at the University of Chile and at San Marcos University in Lima, Peru. Americans attending other summer sessions thruout Latin America raise the figure much higher.

During the past summer and thru the coming academic year our colleges and universities are offering greatly increased opportunities in curriculum and extracurriculum work regrading Latin America.

All this points to an encouraging fact: that this coming year we will have more people in the Americas than ever before better fitted for accurate teaching and study of genuine neighborliness in the western hemisphere. For the growth of mutual understanding, this trend must continue and it should be utilized to the fullest advantage for all concerned.

During 1941-42 an increased number of students from Latin America will be using the facilities of our colleges and universities. As is suggested by E. A. Mercado of the University of Michigan in an article in the *Modern Language Journal* of May 1941, we should encourage the real social integration of Latin American students so that they may become acquainted not just with other foreign students but also with young men and young women of this country who can give their interpretation of what the United States stands for. This is one way to rid South Americans of misconceptions previously obtained thru inaccurate pictures of life in the United States which have sometimes in the past been presented by the movies and the press.

The Pan American Council of the School of the Air of the Americas met at NEA headquarters, Washington, D. C., September 19, under auspices of CBS and NEA, who cooperate in presenting this project of cultural exchange between the Americas.

## ORGANIZING THE WORLD FOR PEACE

Winner of a trip to South America this summer was seventeen-year old Warren Schulz of Ilion High School, Ilion, New York. Warren won first prize in the Fifteenth National Competitive Examination for High Schools, dealing with the problem of "Organizing the World for Peace" - a contest sponsored by the Education Committee of the League of Nations Association. The winner, a versatile youth and valedictorian of his graduating class last spring, sailed July 3 with one of the World Y Tours, and returned to New York harbor September 8 after having visited Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina.

The contest, taking place with the world engulfed in war, nevertheless made a greater appeal to teachers and students than it had in the past. Over 1000 schools enrolled; approximately 7000 pupils made preparations. Questionnaires from enrolled schools showed that 1608 students actually took the examination.

Besides the main prize offered by the League of Nations Association many excellent prizes were offered by Association branches and by local organizations and civic groups in participating towns thruout the country. Various colleges offered a total of $1400 in scholarships to local and regional winners.

Preparatory work for the contest began early in the fall. The Education Committee felt that it was extremely important this year to direct the students' thinking toward the whole broad problem of the organization of peace after the war, since the task of seeing to it that such organization is really effective will fall eventually on the shoulders of these young people. The booklet "Essential Facts," heretofore used in the study kit, was completely revised, brought up to date, and its scope broadened to include a discussion of various peace plans, such as the Streit plan for Union Now, and inter-American machinery, as well as the League of Nations and the World Court. The name of the revised pamphlet became "Essential Facts Underlying World Organization." A special edition of the Covenant of the League of Nations and a study outline prepared by the Commission To Study the Organization of Peace made up the rest of the material supplied in the study kit.

The Education Committee was deeply impressed with the excellence of the examination papers submitted in the contest. Even the poorer papers showed a real grasp of the problems involved. The first three questions were factual, but the last question asking for the students' comments on Briand's statement gave the students an opportunity to discuss their own personal views on the whole problem. The large majority were convinced that only thru some kind of organization to which all nations of the world belong can lasting peace be established.

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## SUCCESSFUL CORRESPONDENCE

AMONG US has received word from a teacher of French and Spanish in Washington, New Jersey, that a successful correspondence has been established with two Latin Americans whose names and addresses were supplied in issues of this newsletter during the past school year. Her further comment quoted from a letter to AMONG US is:

> "In general I may say that all [correspondents] express intense admiration for Americans and our way of life, about which they are eager to know more. Senorita Diaz has great respect for the Cuban policy of advancing money to teachers for summer trips to the United States. She is especially interested in vocational guidance, and since that is one of my major fields of work, I have sent her various types of mimeographed materials in order to give her a more comprehensive view of our work. ...
>
> "She has also a profound interest and respect for American magazines, particularly the *Reader's Digest* and *Life*. ...
>
> "It is most apparent that all three [correspondents] feel a genuine frendship toward this country and a real desire to know it in more intimate detail.
>
> "All of this correspondence is yet so new that as yet I have made no definite plans as to how to utilize in my class work the letters and information which they contain. I am certain that they can do much to foster comradeship and Pan Americanism toward which we are all striving."

Other teachers wishing to share their "correspondence news" should write to AMONG US, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. If any teacher or student wishes to write to a Latin American and does not have the heretofore published list of names and addresses, AMONG US will be glad to be of assistance.

All those involved in the direction and planning of Latin American studies will gratefully receive news of a bulletin of the NEA Research Division published in October 1941. It is an up-to-date bibliography on Latin America, a revision of the Research Division's LATIN AMERICAN BACKGROUNDS of 1940. The work, consisting of some 700 annotated references, has been prepared with the intention of suggesting units of study both in elementary grades and in junior and senior high school, and is appropriately illustrated. Twenty-five thousand copies will be sent to school systems and leading libraries. Single copies may be obtained for 25 cents from the National Education Association.

## LITERARY CONTEST

The Division of Intellectual Cooperation of the Pan American Union has announced that it will organize another Latin American Literary Contest on behalf of Farrar and Rinehart, New York publishing house. In this contest three categories of prizes will be awarded for the best novel, best essay - biographical, sociological, or philosophical - and best work for juvenile readers. Only unpublished works or works not published prior to April 14, 1941 may be submitted.

## QUIVIRA SOCIETY

Twelve years ago a small group of eminent history scholars whose field of study was the Spanish American Southwest formed an organization - the Quivira Society. The purpose of the Society was to promote and perpetuate more thoro knowledge and better understanding of the early history of that region thru publication of old Spanish and American records.

Now an established institution, the Quivira Society can look back with considerable satisfaction on its remarkable growth and progress. In its first ten years it published eight works (ten volumes) of English translations of rare and previously unpublished Spanish documents - all important contributions to Southwest history, casting new light on early exploration and colonization.

Membership in the Society has grown from the small body of founders to nearly 500 persons, among whom are some of the nation's foremost scholars and literary figures.

Printed in limited editions, "Quivira books" not only are prized by history students but have become collectors' items as well. They are designed to please those who love fine books.

Possessing no endowment, the Quivira Society is a nonprofit, nonsalaried organization, supported solely by sales of its publications. There is no initiation fee, no dues or assessments, and all income is devoted to publishing and printing the books. Members agree to accept and pay for the volumes as issued, and obtain them at a special price of one to two dollars below the regular sale price. No more than two volumes have appeared, or will appear, in any one year. The Quivira Series is available thru no source other than the Society.

Those who study and enjoy Southwestern history are invited to affiliate. More detailed information may be obtained from the following address: George P. Hammond, Managing Editor, Quivira Society, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## NBC STUDENT EXCHANGE OVER SHORT WAVE

When the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System saluted the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, on August 15, over the National Broadcasting Company, it inaugurated the first of a series of exchange programs between the students of North and South America.

The program also honored the University of Sao Paulo as the first South American member of the I.B.S. Symbolizing the common bond between the students of both nations, it was presented in two parts, the first broadcast from New York to Brazil in Portuguese, and the second from Sao Paulo, an answer to the United States in English.

"We hope that this criss-cross of voices between the students of North and South America will grow into a huge international forum of the air devoted to better understanding between the American republics," stated Lawrence Lader, director of the Pan American Department of the I.B.S.

Programs have been exchanged at two-week intervals since August 15, with students of Colombia, Mexico, and Peru.

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Committee on the Americas of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom held an inter-American conference in New York, June 16, on the subject, "A Program for Implementing the Good Neighbor Policy ... Along Social and Economic Lines." Discussions served the purpose of elucidating some of the basic issues in the struggle to raise living standards for the 140,000,000 people in the Americas, North and South, who are living below decent subsistence levels.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is looking for organizational support in its active program. A summary of their resolutions and the conference discussions of these is available for 15 cents. Write for "Hands across the Americas," National Literature Department, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 1924 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY LANGUAGE

"The ... fact which seems to blind us with excess of evidence is that the language obstacle is most emphatically not a theory but a condition. It faces us everywhere. Whenever the representatives of two or more countries have to meet, the problem arises; every day among enemies as well as among friends it has to be solved by some makeshift. International relations cannot forever be restricted to the forcible but rudimentary language of shells and bombs. Interlinguists, therefore, are not dwellers in Dreamland. They are seeking, realistically, the easiest way out of a very concrete difficulty." [From the *American Scholar*, Spring 1941.]

The above is the driving conviction of the organization known as the International Auxiliary Language Association whose work is linguistic research for determining a form of language capable of serving adequately as an auxiliary language for the greatest number of people. The president is Stephen Duggan, who is also director of the Institute of International Education. Advisory boards and committees include scholars of Europe and Asia as well as of the United States.

I.A.L.A. has had to adjust its international program to working conditions brought about by war in Europe. The linguistic research which was well under way at the University of Liverpool, where I.A.L.A. maintained an international staff of workers, was in 1940 consolidated with similar work in New York. Fortunately, all the data compiled by the Liverpool staff before they had to disband and their special reference library were transported from England and reached New York safely. Most of the details of this safe transference were arranged by Miss Gwendolyn Dew, secretary to the Liverpool staff, who soon after was killed in one of the air raids over Liverpool.

An essential part of I.A.L.A.'s research is embodied in a book of 441 pages entitled *The Semantic Frequency List*, compiled by Helen S. Eaton, linguistic research associate of I.A.L.A. It correlates four available frequency lists in English, French, German, and Spanish from the point of view of the meaning of each work. The semantic treatment of word counts is a new approach to the study of language. Miss Eaton's method has furnished a list of over 6000 concepts. They are of the most frequent occurrence in four of the major European languages and need, therefore, a means of expression thru words in an international language.

*The Semantic Frequency List*, obtainable at bookstores (price $5), has been used in manuscript form for the past three years by the research staff in the intricate work of extracting the basic roots for the vocabulary of the language I.A.L.A. will recommend for international use. In manuscript forms there are supplements, namely, correlated columns in Esperanto, Ido, and, in part, in Occidental.

The work of this research organization is financed by grants from individuals and foundations, mostly the former. Their special library on international language subjects is open to interested persons, and books and pamphlets in this field are available thru their nonprofit sales service. For further information write the International Auxiliary Language Association, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

## THE NEW WORLD CALENDAR

An interesting movement with regard to world cooperation and agreement is that of the World Calendar Association which for several years has been working out a new calendar of twelve months and equal quarters. The new calendar, which would have month dates falling on the same week day each year, is intended to alleviate the confusion that exists because of the present irregularity of time units.

The new World Calendar has been hailed and recommended by leaders and organizations in almost all human groups of the civilized world and awaits worldwide ratification. It has been planned to interfere with no religious practice in East or West and it conforms to all national customs.

In a booklet entitled *The World Calendar* the history, purpose, and progress of the movement are explained to citizens of the world. Descriptions clarify how a new calendar would affect industry, labor, government, law, retailing, agriculture, finance, science, education, home, religion, and all people.

Copies of this booklet may be obtained upon request from the World Calendar Association, Inc., International Building, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Each Saturday afternoon CBS presents a program entitled "Calling Pan America," which brings to United States listeners some of the music, culture, and entertainment of one of the Latin American republics. The program is from 3:00 to 3:30 E.S.T.

## CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTION

To the Research Division of the NEA came a unique issue of the *Boydenite*, school paper of Seth Boyden School, Maplewood, New Jersey. It is a Pan American issue, devoted to reports of classroom activities, extracurriculum programs, exhibits, poetry, special articles, and editorials - all written by children from the first thru the sixth grade. An example of the children's expression of interest in South America is this poem by Shirley Wright, Grade VI:

A South American country
Lies below the Torrid Zone,
The climate is the finest
Which the Gauchos call their own.
The plains are ripe with wheat fields,
The cattle strong and well,
Their beaches like Riviera -
So the natives always tell.
Some day when I am old enough,
And travel comes my way,
I'll hop a streamlined clipper.
Straight down to Uruguay.

## SUMMER VISITORS

The summer months brought many people from countries in South America. A number of them were invited by the United States Department of State to visit the United States.

From Chile came a distinguished authoress and musician, Senorita Magdalena Petit. From Buenos Aires, Argentina, came Dr. José A. Saralegui, a specialist in the field of radiology. Two officials of the Brazilian Ministry of Education have been here to visit cultural centers and universities and to give lectures in their fields of interest: Senhor Sergio Buarque de Hollanda, who is one of the important young historical writers of Brazil, and Senhor Luiz Jardim, author, artist, and journalist.

Other visitors were directors and representatives of seventeen schools of social work in eleven of the American republics, who spent a month in study, observation, and consultation with social work leaders in the United States concerning further development of inter-American collaboration in this field. They conferred with officials of public and private agencies concerned with health and welfare, and visited several social work projects in Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, and Virginia.

## MEXICAN SUMMER SESSION

Sixty young women from Texas State College for Women, Denton, Texas, took advantage of the summer session held in Saltillo, Mexico, during July and August. The four-week schedule of lectures and events was planned for the college by the department of public education of the State of Coahuila, Mexico, assisted by the public schools and the Chamber of Commerce of Saltillo. Arrangements were made by Rebecca Switzer and Jerome Moore, director and assistant director of the department of foreign languages in Texas State College for Women.

Elementary and advanced courses in Spanish as well as courses in Mexican civilization, history, and literature were offered with or without credit. Students had the opportunity of making an extended trip to Mexico City after the summer school. The trip was made by bus and provided for eight days in Mexico City with visits to Xochimilco, the Pyramids, Guadalupe Shrine, Desert of the Lions, Toluca, Cuernavaca, Taxco, Puebla, and Cholula.

International cooperation and reciprocity in the planning of this summer session are of special interest. Two members of the staff of the department of foreign languages of the Texas college gave lectures in Spanish dealing with culture and life in the United States for the benefit of the Mexican teachers and students in Saltillo.

## NEW YORK CITY LOCAL PROGRAM

Town Hall in New York City, June 13, 1941, was a program sponsored by the New York chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish. Consisting of an elaborate program of music, drama, and presentation of awards, this CBS broadcast paid tribute to schools, committees, and organizations in New York which have contributed to active interest in and better understanding of the Good Neighbor Policy and the traditions of the republics of the Americas. Five sets of twenty-one flags of the American republics were presented to the five high schools adjudged to have made the greatest contribution in the promotion of Pan Americanism in each borough of the city of New York.

Those who are interested in Esperanto should write to Esperanto Publishers, 2380 South University Boulevard, Denver, Colorado. Literature and suggestions will be sent upon request.

## PAN AMERICAN INTERNESHIPS

Special interneships in university hospitals and clinics in the United States have been awarded to outstanding graduates of medical schools in the other Americas for the coming year. The plan was conceived by a group of teachers in five leading United States medical schools and carried out thru a cooperative arrangement between the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and the participating hospitals and clinics. Candidates have been selected on the basis of recommendations from departments of health and medical school deans in each country.

This is being done on the belief that mutual professional interest is a sure ground for building friendship; that doctors, lawyers, scientists, and other professional groups have much the same problems and the same interests regardless of their nationality or geographic location. University hospitals from coast to coast in the United States are participating in this work.

Of interest also in the field of health and welfare is the announcement that two public health nurses from the United States have gone to Quito, Ecuador, at the request of the Government of Ecuador, to assist in public health and maternal and child welfare programs in that country. They have been sent by the Coordinator's Office in collaboration with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and with the assistance of the United States Public Health Service and the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor.

Activities of the nurses will be directed by local representatives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the United States Embassy. The nurses will assist in the new American School at Quito.

Schools, clubs, and study groups may make use of a free film entitled "Good Neighbors," a demonstration of the Good Neighbor Fleet of passenger ships of the United States Maritime Commission. For booking and more detailed description write the Division of Maritime Promotion and Information, United States Maritime Commission, Washington, D. C.

## A DYNAMIC TECHNIC

"After a few hundred years of exclusive professionalism, the drama has again in our days become the medium of the teacher: in hundreds of churches, community centers, and classrooms people are encouraged to recreate knowledge in the terms of their own living. And this is just one phase of a larger educational trend. Today, passive education is giving way to dynamic technics which attempt to impart pattern and understanding to the conflicts of life. Group playwriting and -production is an exciting method of presenting these conflicts and in aiding the students to build into the pattern of their lives a warm, human understanding for their meaning."

The *Intercultural Education News* of June 1941 carries this expression and reports several successful projects in secondary schools which are experiments in this technic of teaching the varied contributions of world cultures. Many teachers of Latin American studies may be interested in planning their own experiments in group playwriting and -production with thought directed to international, intercultural understanding between the Americas.

The Service Bureau for Intercultural Education invites teachers to apply for membership ($2), and to state their professional interest in intercultural education, explaining the type of information which would be most helpful. Address: Service Bureau for Intercultural Education, 300 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

## PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS

The Eighth Pan American Child Congress has been announced for May 2-9, 1942 in Washington, D.C. Details will be made available later by the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce (United States Department of Commerce) has issued three mimeographed releases: "Some Publications Relating to the American Republics," "A Brief List of Bibliographies on Latin America," and "Some References to Material on Western Hemisphere Defense." Single copies may be obtained free either from the Washington, D.C., office or from district offices in principal cities of the country.

# NEWS FROM AMERICA SOUTH

**FROM VENEZUELA**

AMONG US has received a letter from Charles C. Griffin, exchange professor last year from Vassar College to Caracas, Venezuela, which it wishes to pass on to its readers. The letter was sent from Caracas in July, and is quoted in full.

"Most Americans have probably heard of the increasing interest of South American youth in athletic sports during the last generation. Some of the best soccer players of the world are to be found in Uruguay and in Argentina, countries which have won Olympic titles in that sport more than once. The triumphs of the Chilean teams in military equitation and the good showing of Argentine polo teams in the United States are also well known. It is probably less understood that in tropical Venezuela there is an equivalent interest in sports and that the most popular game there is baseball which has developed rapidly throughout the country. There is at present at least one Venezuelan player in the American major league game, something which indicates not only individual skill, but also a wide base of less well known players. Indeed, the sand lots of Caracas and other Venezuelan cities are filled with small players on any holiday afternoon.

"The development of sports in South America, however, has been much less closely connected with schools and colleges than in the case of our own country. Most athletic activities are carried out by clubs rather than in schools and colleges. It is for this reason that the recent development of physical education and sports in the University of the Andes at Mérida, high in the mountains of the interior of Venezuela, is of especial interest. There, owing to the efforts of a few enthusiastic men, the tradition of indifference to sports in South American universities has been seriously dented. Quite naturally, it is in a small provincial university rather than in a big city institution that we see this change first. In the large capitals the number of other distractions is greater and there is less group spirit among students than in the smaller centers.

"A few short years ago there was less interest in athletics in Mérida than there is in skiing in the Sahara, but the situation has now changed radically. At present the University has a well equipped gymnasium, a swimming pool, and an athletic field equipped for football (soccer), basketball, and other field sports. There is an expert director of physical education on the faculty and more than half of the members of the student body are taking part in athletics in one way or another. As yet there is not much interest in competition with teams from outside the institution as there are scarcely any similar groups with which extra mural rivalry can develop, perhaps something that is just as well, for it should prevent the over-emphasis on the spectacular which many have deplored among us, but in fencing, baseball, basketball, wrestling, and gym work there is a keen interest among the students. The writer happened to be present at a swimming meet held in the new and beautiful outdoor pool of the University of Mérida in the shadow of the snowcapped peaks of the Andes and not far from the ancient colonial cloisters of the institution. The performance of the swimmers was impressive and the times registered would have been creditable anywhere.

"How has this change come about? To a large extent because of the efforts of two men. First, Dr. M.A. Pulido Méndez, rector (president of the University from 1937-1940), who fought hard for the recognition of the value of physical training, and second, to an American citizen, Mr. Martínez, one time Cornell quarterback in the twenties, who has been for the past two years the director of physical education. It must, of course, be recognized that the financial support granted by the ministry of education in maintaining salaries and buying equipment has been the indispensable basis on which this progress has been built.

"Martinez is a stock dynamic fellow whose Mexican parentage enables him to understand and be understood by the students with whom he has to deal. He has made himself deservedly popular at the same time that he has advanced the cause of athletics. Starting from nothing, by working constantly and ungrudgingly, he has done wonders. How many of our own colleges can point to such a record as his? The actual participation in athletics is over one half the student body in spite of the fact that it is entirely voluntary. All this has been achieved in two or three years.

"What has been accomplished is considerable, but what is to come is even more important. From the University of Mérida young men are being graduated who as teachers or in private life are able to act as coaches in schools and elsewhere and who will spread the interest in sports widely through the country. This is not a completely isolated case. What has been reported is part of the general athletic awakening of South America."

## FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Cha s C. Hauch as an exchange scholar has been spending the past academic year in Ciudad Trujillo at research and writing on his doctor's dissertation, which is concerned with Dominican history and international relations. A letter he has written to teachers in the United States is quoted below.

"Coming from the United States, whose English settlements were among the last in the New World to be founded, to Santo Domingo, where the first European settlement was made, was the first experience I had had in a Spanish American country. I cannot say that the experience was like entering a new world, for here there are modern cars, paved streets, electric lights, telephones, department stores, American movies, beautiful homes, and radios. On the other hand, it certainly was 'different' to hear Spanish instead of English spoken everywhere; this was probably the most immediate change I noticed when I stepped out of the American atmosphere of the SS Borinquen and set foot in Ciudad Trujillo. The old landmarks of the city, the old Spanish style architecture, the narrow streets of the 'old' city, the houses in this part of the city built right out to the sidewalk - many of them very attractive on the inside - these were the things that were immediately most different. But most different was the way of life - the ways of thinking, feeling, and acting that give each people and their country its soul. I never knew what the 'mañana' idea of not hurrying and letting tomorrow take care of itself could mean until I had first hand contact with it.

"Fitting into the general pattern of being 'different' is college and university life in Santo Domingo. American students who are accustomed to groan at the prospect of an eight o'clock class never would have cause to emit such distress signals at the University of Santo Domingo, the only institution of higher learning in the country. Here all classes, save those for students in some of the professional schools, take place in the late afternoon, beginning usually at four and running through to seven. The reason for this is that few parents are able to continue supporting their children who wish to attend college, and the latter must work at regular positions during the morning and early afternoon hours. Tuition fees are very low, and most students live at home. There is no college campus and there are no fraternities, sororities, or dormitories. None of the professors - 'catedraticos' as they are called - is a full time teacher and research worker. Each is expected to have his regular profession and to teach besides. The President of the Republic himself gives a course in law. The professors are paid according to the number of hours they teach.

"The University of Santo Domingo is the oldest institution of higher learning in the New World, having been founded in 1538, although the University of San Marcos in Peru was the first to bear the name University. For many years it served principally as a professional school for doctors, lawyers, and dentists; but in recent years these schools have been improved and what corresponds to a Liberal Arts course in an American college reintroduced with the revival of the Faculty of Philosophy in 1938. There always was a great interest in literature, poetry, and philosophy among the Dominicans, and this revival is indicative of the renaissance in Dominican

intellectual life that has recently taken place. The University has been fortunate to obtain the services of many Spanish refugee professors. One such Spaniard as University librarian has built up and reorganized the University Library. In short...the work of the University in recent years has been admirable.

"Primary and secondary education are not neglected either. Attendance is compulsory until children reach the age of fourteen, but the effectiveness of this law is limited by a lack of buildings and equipment. The result is that some children, especially of the poorer families, do not go to school. The high school was originally intended as a training school for teachers, but in recent years more and more students interested in obtaining a general education for its own sake have enrolled. It still bears the original name, however - *Escuela Normal*, that is, *Normal School*. There are also special technical, commercial, and home economics schools.

"Perhaps you would like to know something of the general life here and of the capital city. Ciudad Trujillo is the oldest city in the western hemisphere. Today it is a modern and beautiful city, having been almost completely rebuilt after the terrible hurricane of 1930. Its cleanliness, parks, and drives, especially George Washington Avenue along the Caribbean Sea, surprise the American tourists who visit the city on the weekly cruise from New York via San Juan, Puerto Rico. Life proceeds at a more leisurely pace than it does in the States...One different custom among the Dominicans is that of having movies and dances on Sunday mornings, which, I understand, is common in Latin American countries. Even the weather has a profound effect on the business and social habits of the people. When it rains - and the steady downpour of a tropical rain for several hours is something to behold - practically all activity stops; the streets are deserted and students do not go to their university classes. Many Dominicans are...charming people speaking several languages and living in beautiful homes of modern Spanish architecture and different colors.

"One very important aspect of life here and one which brings one closer to the conflicts raging in Europe is the refugee situation. The Dominican Republic was one of the first countries to open its doors to the refugees and hopes to induce many of them to settle on its vacant acres of land. However, many of them are here only temporarily until they can make arrangements to go to other countries. They divide into two classes: Spaniards and Central Europeans, of which latter group the majority are Germans. Many of them are cultured, intelligent people. Although some of the Spaniards hope to go eventually to the United States, the majority try to go to Mexico, where the similarity of language solves one of the most difficult problems for any foreigner in a strange land. For the Germans and other Central Europeans this problem is present here and makes the transition to Dominican life more sharp. Most of them hope to settle in the United States, although both Spaniards and Central Europeans dream of the day when they will be able to return to their homelands. Through an agreement between the Dominican Government and an American corporation specially organized for the purpose, the Dominican Republic Settlement Association (DORSA), some of the Central Europeans are being settled on the land, principally at Sosua on the north coast of the republic; but it is difficult for people who have been used to business, professional, or intellectual life to adjust quickly to the soil, especially in a tropical country.

"In contrast to the Dominicans and the refugees, there is in Ciudad Trujillo a compact English speaking colony of Americans, English, and Canadians. Foreign interests control and operate many of the important businesses of the country. Most of the sugar companies - sugar is the most important crop in this agricultural country - are under American control. In the capital the English speaking people live a life very similar to that in the States. They play golf and tennis and dance at the Country Club, and have their dinners and bridge parties. Christmas Eve they had the Candlelighting service in the Episcopal Church, the only church holding services in English. They even have their own school for their children.

"This year spent in the Dominican Republic I consider one of my most valuable. Perhaps equally or more important than the research and writing I have been able to do on Dominican history has been the first-hand knowledge I have gained of a Latin American people, their life, and their psychology. Here in the 'Cradle of America,' as the Dominicans call their land, I had my first experience with a Latin American culture, which I think has enabled me better to understand the history of the people and their past."

## FROM COLOMBIA

From Mrs. Kathleen McInerny Fahy, a young woman now in Bogotá while her husband is employed there, has recently come an informal letter. Parts of the letter are quoted below, being of general interest:

"...We have flown up to Bogotá by two different routes and have seen that Colombia is truly magnificent. Spiny, green mountains criss-cross the country. It is impossible to imagine how civil wars were ever fought on such terrain. There are three cordilleras of Andes stretching from the Pacific to the Atlantic and each is made up of numerous sharp, unordered ranges. Bogotá is perched on a table-land, called the sabana, on the most eastern cordillera. It is up 9000 feet but nestles in a crescent shape against even higher heights. The sabana is not very colorful; what trees there are are the Australian eucalyptus, silvery green and divinely fragrant.

"The buildings of Bogotá are rather heavy and Colonial in style. For many years the city was completely isolated except by river boat and mule pack. Even now there is no thru route from either the Pacific or the Atlantic except by air. From the Pacific there is a short stretch of railroad, and beyond that trucks bring all goods over the mountains. The Magdalena River comes up from the Atlantic part way, but it is temperamental. Daily the sandbars shift, and it can take from eight days to three weeks to navigate ....

"There is a story that long ago the sábana was a lake, which greatly inconvenienced the Indians living in the surrounding mountains... Finally, they appealed to their great god and he in pity broke the cup that held the waters and created Tequendama Falls...

"We went to the llanos that stretch from the mountains far to the East like a rolling, purple sea. The road is bad; there are constant landslides. Down on the llanos is the cattle country, and all day long herds with cowboys on quick little horses raise a dust on their way to the Bogotá market.

"At the market we drank aguardiente, the local sugar cane drink, and tried the Indian's chicha. We went to a barbecue where the food was spread on banana leaves. You could choose what piece of the cow you wanted and then got it in a long, huge strip. We saw a cock-fight, petted a chained llano tiger, talked to the parrots, and visited the herders' inns.

"Riding horseback half-way up a mountain near Choachi we saw a series of little stores built thru government loans. They cost about 1700 pesos, but the Indians pay only 4 pesos a month to own them eventually. They sell candles, bread, cigarettes, chicha, and pungent sausages.

"Because of its isolation and the difficulty of transportation the cost of living is high in Bogotá. Here where the winds blow and there is constant, damp cold, poverty - without shelter, adequate clothing and food - must be cruel. We buy no U. S. food. Altho we miss some things our diet is varied and substantial. For the two of us with steady entertaining on a small scale and our two maids, food costs about $12 (U. S. currency) a week. For a "tropical" country this is far above average. We find the only cheap thing is labor: our cook gets $12 (U. S. currency) a month and the maid $9.

"The United States colony here is fairly typical, I think. The largest groups are in the Embassy and in Richmond Oil. Everyone says the U. S. commercial representatives down here have improved greatly. I still feel that there is a far way to go. Most of those people never try to fit into the country or even know much about it.

"Colombia has been concerned for a month with the nomination of presidential candidates. Politics is all-absorbing. Because conventions were being held the entry of Russia into the war caused scarcely a ripple. This is a news-hungry country. Not only do the numerous papers have a large sale but each newspaper has a blackboard bulletin at second story height above the main street. Such crowds congregate to read the latest news, elegent ladies as well as barefooted Indians, that the street is closed to automobile traffic during certain hours."

FROM CHILE

A representative of his country at the Lima and other conferences, Benjámin Carlos, now director of information in Chile, gave some helpful suggestions to Americans in an interview with Frances R. Grant, president of the Pan American Women's Association and Inter-American Institute:

"I want to speak to you," he said, "not in my role as an official but as a friend of your country. We who are really sympathetic to the United States are willing to speak very frankly to you as to why we look rather askance at the present efforts of your country to court our affections.

"We are particularly annoyed by the plethora of writers who have come here recently - mind you, it is not writers per se that we object to; it is the absolute lack of intellectual integrity of the great number who have come. They remain here a few days, ignorant of our language. They see a few of our officials, seize a few fragmentary impressions, then return to write articles or books filled with errors and the evidence of a profound ignorance of our situation.

"We here need your capital and your business investments, but we feel also that this is a new era, no longer the era of exploiters who leave little money and many problems in our country. The Latin American nations, however they may need the assistance of the United States, cannot again subject themselves to the old type of commercial humiliation.

"The future of Chile, as the future of all nations in Latin America, will depend on the turn of the war. Despite our great economic dependence on Germany and Europe, there is a feeling of friendship to the United States, if you yourselves do not jeopardize it by this cumulative series of irritations."

FROM MEXICO

The following quotation is from a speech made by Manuel Avila Camacho, President of the Republic of Mexico, addressed to the graduating class of the National School for Teachers, 1941. It is presented in AMONG US because it reveals some of the peculiar problems of the Mexican teacher.

"You who will shortly come into direct contact with the activities of Mexico, will become aware immediately of the necessity of sustaining those doctrines which are rooted in our own soil. Our problems demand, in each case, solutions preeminently of national character. The dispersion of our towns in a vast territory and in an environment frequently hostile, the isolation which in many occasions you will find, due to the lack of communications through our deserts and our mountain ranges, the lack of salubrious facilities in our more fertile lands, the difficulty of defense against drought and against cruel epidemics, the exploitation of the under-privileged, every one of these characteristics of our national life is anxiously awaiting, as if it were a promise of redemption, the arrival of the teacher who will understand and define these characteristics and will help the people in their struggle against them. In order to cope with these problems, so essentially Mexican, the doctrines which have no connection with our soil will be found sterile and unsubstantial.

"You constitute the spiritual army which will struggle against the evil forces which seem bent on the destruction of the soul of the communities. Teachers, apostles, friends of the people, your mission represents one of the loftiest manifestations of human sacrifice! Whoever dedicates his intelligence to Education, should expect very few material compensations; but in exchange, the teacher who honestly fulfills his duty, will find unlimited satisfaction in the affection, devotion and love of the people with whom he lives."

# NEWS FOR THE BOOKSHELF

**GOOD NEIGHBORS**, by Hubert Herring, was released by the Yale University Press last summer. It is a timely, extremely readable volume by the director of the Committee on Cultural Relations with Latin America. Price $3.

Two lists of teaching aids are available at the National Education Association which are of interest to teachers of Latin American studies: (1) REFERENCES ON INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND THE SCHOOLS, 4 pages mimeographed, October 1940; (2) REPRESENTATIVE FILMS ON LATIN AMERICA, 6 pages mimeographed, April 1941. Free upon request. Address: NEA Research Division, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

**OUR NORTHERN NEIGHBORS**, Vol. VI, No. 6 of *Building America*, is the companion to the earlier number, OUR LATIN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS, in the study of hemispheric cooperation. Single copies 30 cents. Address: American Corporation, 2 West 45th Street, New York City.

Several publishers have prepared lists of their books pertaining to Latin America. The Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Avenue, New York City, will supply a four-page list including 64 books for adults, high-school and college students, and a small sheet of outstanding books for both adults and children.

E. P. Dutton, 300 Fourth Avenue, New York City, also furnishes annotated lists of books for young people and their elders for better acquaintance with neighbors - north and south.

Charles Scribner's Sons, 597-599 Fifth Avenue, New York City, offers a list of its books on Latin American history, geography, travel, and description.

**AIDS FOR THE SPANISH TEACHER**, compiled by Lili Heimers, is a valuable key to methods and materials that are available in up-to-date presentation of the Spanish language. It contains accurate information concerning bibliographies, visual and teaching aids, interesting periodicals published in the United States and in the other American countries, suggestions for extracurriculum travel, correspondence, cookery, dramatics, games, music, and other hobbies. Price 50 cents. Address: Director of Visual Aids Service, New Jersey Teachers College, Upper Montclair, N. J.

**A PLAN FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE RELATIONS** is a mimeographed work of the Committee on the Americas of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. It is the plan submitted last spring for study and action to the members of the League. The seventeen-page bulletin and its four-page supplement are available postpaid for 15 cents at the following address: National Literature Committee, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 1924 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

**PAN AMERICAN QUESTIONNAIRE**, edited by B. F. Crowson, contains a variety of questions on Latin America - true-false, completion, identification, etc. - covering history, geography, economics, current events, people, and general information. Price 15 cents. A key to the answers is supplied to teachers. Address: Pan American Educational Center, 518 Colorado Building, Washington, D. C.

**BULLETIN** of the Commission To Study the Organization of Peace is available to the members of the Commission and to associated study groups. It summarizes or carries in full the various unofficial suggestions from groups in other countries for the future organization of peace. Address: Commission To Study the Organization of Peace, 8 West 40th Street, New York City.

The first fall issue of LAS AMÉRICAS, a newspaper in Spanish for students of Spanish, is dedicated to the Dominican Republic. The editors report that there are still a few copies of all the issues of LAS AMÉRICAS to date for persons wishing to complete their file of the Central and South American republics. A sample copy of the newspaper will be sent to anyone interested. Address: Las Americas, 98-09 65th Road, Forest Hills, N. Y.

**ECONOMIC UNION AND ENDURING PEACE**, by Otto Todd Mallery, is a treatise to be published in a series in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. Part I, "The Essence," appeared in July and is available in reprint form for 10 cents. Part II, "The Method," is announced for publication in November 1941. Works of this nature must receive the attention and study of those in our country who can have a share in educating for peace and reconstruction. Address: American Academy of Political and Social Science, 3457 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Teachers and students will find helpful the PAN AMERICAN, a monthly magazine edited by Farris A. Flint. With the October issue this magazine begins its second winter. Price 25 cents a copy; $3 a year. Address: Famous Features Syndicate, Inc., 103 Park Avenue, New York City.

**FOUR LIGHTS**, a newssheet published by the National Literature Department of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, is now available at 5 cents a copy. The June 1941 issue, which is Vol. 1, No. 1, sets forth the policies and program of the organization. General material on national policies, literature, announcements, and news about W.I.L. groups here and abroad is contained in the

July issue. The September number is also being distributed. Address: *Four Lights*, 1924 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

**EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE IN MEXICO** is one of a series of pamphlets published by the Council for Pan American Democracy as a result of the studies of a delegation from the Council, which made a first-hand survey of conditions in Mexico during the summer of 1939. This report is prepared by Goodwin Watson of Teachers College, Columbia University. Address: Council for Pan American Democracy, 100 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

**SELECTED LIST OF BOOKS AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES ON HEMISPHERE DEFENSE** is a compilation of documentary and secondary material that will aid in the study of hemispheric defense and allied topics. References deal with cultural, economic, and political relations. This work was prepared in January 1941. Price 25 cents. Address: Pan American Union, Washington, D. C.

**THE OTHER AMERICA** is a syllabus on Latin America for the use of study groups of the American Association of University Women. It cites texts, supplementary reading, and recent periodical references. The syllabus was prepared by Glen L. Swiggett, A. Curtis Wilgus, and J. Fred Rippy. Price 40 cents; 21 mimeographed pages. Address: American Association of University Women, 1634 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

**THE ROAD TO PAN AMERICANISM**, by Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, written for the Committee of Inter-American Cooperation, tells of the rise of Pan Americanism, the problem of equality - north and south, the land, the people, the resources, the case of want amidst plenty, and problems of industry and trade. Price 50 cents; 59 pages. Address: Bacon & Wieck, Inc., Northport, N. Y.

**YOUNG AMERICA**, a national news weekly for youth, will carry a Latin American feature each month. In addition it will offer a series of four center spread feature articles on Latin America. This weekly has over 350,000 subscribers in elementary and junior high schools, and it is estimated that these Latin American articles will reach 30,000 teachers. Published by the Eton Publishing Corp., 32 E. 57th Street, New York City.

The July 1941 issue of REVISTA del INSTITUTO NORMAL CENTRAL de SEÑORITAS was recently received at NEA headquarters from Tegucigalpa, D. C., Honduras. It may be obtained from the Instituto Normal Central de Senoritas at the above address in Honduras. Of interest to all readers of AMONG US is the fact that this Honduras periodical is carrying a continuous article on the geography of the United States. The July article describes some of the important rivers in the United States, their historical significance, and the great cities located near them.

**BOLETIN BIBLIOGRAFICO MEXICANO** is a monthly publication of the Instituto Panamericano de Bibliografia y Documentación, in Mexico City, which reviews recent Mexican books and theses. The bulletin is in Spanish. It contains a section devoted to books about Mexico published in other countries, principally the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. Address: Instituto Panamericano de Bibliografia y Documentación, Apartado 8626, Mexico, D. F.

Engaged in distributing Spanish books in all countries of America is a publishing house in Buenos Aires, Argentina, called Agencia International de Diarios. "Our organization," writes A. Barna e Hijo, president of the agency, "strives to make known among all American nations the intellectual production of each one ..." Any library or individual wishing to receive a catalog or any other information about this agency should write to the United States representative, Dr. P. L. Erdos, 40 West 70th Street, New York City. Home address of the Agencia is Calle Lavalle 379, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**THE BRAZIL TRADE JOURNAL**, published monthly for overseas distribution by the Conselho Federal de Comercio Exterior in Rio de Janeiro, is a little bulletin which would be useful for classroom study and discussion. In English and fairly lucidly presented, it furnishes information about products, trade, and business in Brazil which is good source material. Address: Conselho Federal de Comercio Exterior, Av. Presidente Wilson, 231, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**LATIN AMERICAN PILOTS OF DESTINY**, by A. Curtis Wilgus, is an eight-page study of Latin American political leaders in general without specific reference to any one person or country. The regular price is 10 cents, but during September, October, and November 1941 it will be sent free upon request (3¢ stamp required for mailing) from the Educational Research Bureau, 1321 M Street, N. W., Washington, D.C.

**MEXICO NEWS**, a new monthly periodical in English, is sent free upon request to people in the United States. It is a publication devoted to the expression of democratic principles in life and government. News is of national and foreign policy, cultural life, and miscellaneous items. The Bureau of International News Service, Department of State for Foreign Affairs, publishes this paper, which can be obtained by addressing Departamento de Informacion para el Extranjero de la Secretaria de Relations, Calle de Luis González Obregón, 11, Mexico, D. F.

**EXPORT SURPLUSES AND IMPORT NEEDS OF SOUTH AMERICA**, by Charles E. Noyes, is the title of the second number of the 1941 volume of *Editorial Research Reports*. Address: Editorial Research Reports, 1013 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

**INTER-AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAHPICAL REVIEW**, the quarterly publication of the Inter-American Bibliographical and Library Association, is a reliable guide to sources of information on inter-American affairs. Especially helpful to teachers in view of the timeliness and importance of periodical material, is a section in the spring and summer 1941 issues (Vol. 1, No. 1 and No. 2) entitled "Articles Relating to Inter-American Affairs in Periodicals Published in English in 1941," edited by Kathleen C. Wade. Annual subscription to the Review is $4. Address: Educational Research Bureau, 1321 M Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Anyone may request that he be included on the mailing list of the Educational Research Bureau for free Latin American bibliographical service issued quarterly. Address 1321 M Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

**OUR NEIGHBORS - NORTH AND SOUTH** (We Travel tho We Stay At Home Series, No. 6), is a bulletin originally prepared for 4-H Clubs to indicate some of the problems in the fields of western hemisphere cooperation and some of the best sources of information for further study in both high-school and adult groups. Price 5 cents; 13 pages mimeographed; generous quantity rates. Address: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of Intercourse and Education, 405 West 117th Street, New York City.

**ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AMERICAS** is another publication of the Carnegie Endowment, prepared by Mordecai Ezekiel. It is a carefully written paper by the economic adviser to the Secretary of Agriculture about the policy and program of inter-American economic cooperation and defense. Free to organizations indicating their use of it. Address same as above Carnegie reference.

The American Education Press offers several weekly papers for classrooms which carry a regular section of material on Latin American relations. Yearly subscriptions for each of these are 75 cents, and less in quantity: CURRENT EVENTS (Grades VI-VIII); EVERY WEEK (Grades VII-X); OUR TIMES (Grades X-XII); MY WEEKLY READER (5 levels for elementary grades). Address: American Education Press, 400 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio.

A new project of the New York Committee of the League of Nations Association is a pamphlet designed specifically for junior high-school use in social studies, called THE WHOLE ROUND WORLD. It is written by Marie Ragonetti and copiously illustrated, emphasizing economic and social interdependence of nations and the need for world government. The pamphlet is ready for distribution and is priced at 10 cents. Write: League of Nations Association, 8 West 40th Street, New York City.

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN ENGLISH ON LATIN AMERICA** will be eagerly received by teachers of the elementary grades. It was prepared by the Columbus Memorial Library of the Pan American Union in collaboration with the Inter-American Bibliographical and Library Association. The 48-page work contains a selected and annotated list of 324 titles classified according to country. The books listed include fiction, folklore, history, geography, and description suitable for school children. Price 50 cents. Address: Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.

Persons interested in reviewing the program of the United States Department of State in cultural relations may obtain a recent reprint at the price of 5 cents entitled THE PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN CULTURAL RELATIONS. Address: United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Sample units of work on Latin America, prepared under the editorship of Richard M. Perdew of Bronxville, N. Y., may be obtained from the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Washington, D. C. The two mimeographed bulletins (one for junior high schools and one for senior high schools) each contain three units. Similar units are being prepared for elementary schools.

**AMERICAN ISOLATION RECONSIDERED** may be obtained (50 cents per copy; 208 pages) from the American Council on Education, Washington, D. C. The report was prepared by a committee of high-school and college teachers and experts on international relations. It is an attempt "to provide teachers in our schools and colleges with a review and appraisal of the background of contemporary American foreign policy." The American Council also distributes (10 cents per copy; 19 pages) a booklet entitled the *Teacher and International Relations*.

The Latin American Economic Council (Room 401, 24 Federal Street, Boston) has issued thru its Brazilian Section A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE POLITICAL RELATION BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES by A. Curtis Wilgus. Dr. Wilgus is professor of Hispanic American History at the George Washington University. Other releases on Brazil may be obtained from the Council.

## SPECIAL BOOK REVIEWS

In response to a request by the editors of AMONG US, publishers have submitted copies of their books about Latin America for review. These reviews by Mildred Small Allen are an attempt to state an unbiased opinion of the value of the books to teachers.

**AMERICAS TO THE SOUTH**, by John T. Whitaker (published in 1941 by the Macmillan Company, 300 pages - $2.50) is a book of reliable information. It is written for the layman of the United States and takes no knowledge of South America for granted.

John Whitaker has for the past ten years learned the skills of accurate observation in Europe, and is recognized as a sincere and brilliant journalist. He went to South America because he wanted to see at close range the conditions so closely tied to European events.

With a quickly moving and sharply pointed style Mr. Whitaker reports his interviews with leaders, his observations of economic, political, and social life, and the evidences of struggle between fascism and democracy in South American countries. He lets facts speak for themselves before he editorializes on them. His approach is wholly sympathetic, but he reports the ill as well as the hopeful situations.

Read the book. Read about the problems of American business in Peru; the Indian's reaction to the changing civilization; the great problems in Bolivia as a result of the Chaco War; the active penetration of South America by Germany, Italy, and Japan; the popular front government of Chile; the national characteristics of the Argentine. You can acquire some background for a better understanding of current news and recent developments reported in our newspapers, and you will realize full well that "Good Neighbor" must mean more than lip service.

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First it should be said that when John Jennings wrote CALL THE NEW WORLD, a novel with considerable Latin American setting, he intended that it should be no more than a swiftly moving story planned against the dramatic events of the western hemisphere in the early 1800's. The fault to be found with the following criticism is, perhaps, that the reviewer looked for more in the book than was ever intended it should have.

Historical fiction must indeed make history its background rather than its pièce de résistance. It does have a mission, however: to translate historical events into the lives of people so that the past acquires a personal, living significance. CALL THE NEW WORLD makes the mistake of passing too superficially over many battles and campaigns in the years of struggle for South American independence from Spain, treating them as disconnected battles, bloody and exhausting, without ever convincing the reader of the fire of freedom behind the action or the character of leadership among the patriots.

The story begins with Peter Brooke's first military experiences in the United States during the latter part of the War of 1812 after his graduation from West Point. Following an unhappy, unjust episode in which he loses both his military rank and his fiancée, Peter Brooke sets out as a soldier-adventurer in South America. He fights in the campaigns of Bolívar, San Martín, and others, becomes a diplomat to London for the government of Peru, and finally returns to the United States where he has a part in connection with the Monroe Doctrine.

The author did see the drama in these events, but unhappily, in the opinion of this reviewer, too obviously advances a plot of adventure and love affairs without sufficient "idea" or motivation. The result is that what seems important to Peter Brooke is half-heartedly acknowledged by the "on-looker."

**CALL THE NEW WORLD** is for adult readers. Let adults read and judge for themselves, but hours may better be spent on more exacting work.

Macmillan is the publisher of this 1941 volume, which contains 459 pages and sells at $2.75.

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Shelby Shackelford is the Artist in a refreshing book in which leading parts are taken by the Physicist, the Biologist, the Zoologist, and the Physician. She writes, under the title of ELECTRIC EEL CALLING, a book about an expedition to the Amazon in search of scientific information about the electric eel. Altho as the wife of the Physicist she reports faithfully most of the experiments performed with the curious, electrified creatures, she reflects mostly her own insatiable interest in color, sound, odor, artistic forms, and human feeling. The result is a charming human document of value to those interested in natural history, biology, travel in general, and South American life in particular.

The expedition proceeded from New York to Pará, Brazil, just below the Equator on the Amazon. For three months a hastily equipped laboratory became the center of research in a quest for determining the origin and use of the "live battery" of the *puraqué*, as the electric eel is known in Brazil. The search for specimens, the contacts with native life, and the day-by-day experiences in strange places furnished ample material for the Artist's pen and brush. Thruout the 258 pages are fascinating pen-and-ink sketches which tell the story of the expedition.

The book is published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price $3.